

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Indianapolis News June 17, 1966

# 'How Did We Get Involved?'

To the Editor of The News:

The Indianapolis News is to be complimented for publishing and "Mr. F. Marion" for writing, even under a pseudonym, the report, "How America Saved Red Boss Ho Chi Minh," which appeared in The News on March 4, 1966, and which has just reached me.

Our mass communications media have never given America the true story of what our agents did in Indo-China after World War II. Men who tried to put Mr. Marion's facts before the public came up against an insupportable news blackout. "The Freeman" published my report on this period and the manner in which Ho Chi Minh's protégé was foisted on Gen. Gallagher as an interpreter ("The Freeman," April 19, 1964). It awakened no interest in our public or press, and there the matter dropped.

Today the big question is: "How did we get involved in this mess?" The answer is: "We got into this mess because an efficient, tightly knit little group that had risen under Roosevelt went into Indo-China and, with the fervor of missionaries, set about arming and putting in motion a Communist monster."

The immediate aim of this group was to kick out or, failing that, to massacre our French allies through the Ho Chi Minh machine they were perfecting. It was natural that once this was accomplished the next objective of the men who were, either on their own initiative or under orders from above, to create this chaos would be to move on to stage two: The replacing of the "deplused colonials" they were knifing. Thus America was dragged into the morass of

what was then Indo-China.

A by-product of our stupidity was the present collapse of NATO, which a high school sophomore looking objectively at what our agents were doing in Indo-China would have recognized as inevitable.

The names of the men responsible are well known. Mr. Marion is one of the few courageous enough to publicly recognize our blunder, or subversion, whichever it was.

Let us bear in mind that the OSS weeded out and effectively silenced every loyal American who warned against that policy. And the OSS men who did this weeding out and muzzling became the "Far East specialists" of the CIA which has led us downhill in Asia ever since while telling Washington and beyond-Washington America that everything was going swimmingly.

The former Emperor Bao Dai asked this writer on April 8, 1966: "Do you know where I first saw Col. (now Gen.) — (one of our American military 'experts')?" "No, Your Majesty," I answered. "Where?" "With Ho Chi Minh," was the reply. "The difference between his position and mine was that he was there by choice."

So, I say again that now is the time to call in all of those old OSS and CIA "experts" and ask them: "Why did you do what you did? Who ordered you to set Ho Chi Minh up in business—or was it your own idea?"

And above all, now is the time to put their answers and the true story of what they did before the American public.

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